

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01057 100338Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9998
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1057

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROF, SP, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH-SPANISH RELATIONS

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 0881, (B) MADRID 1730

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR MET WITH MFA SPANISH AFFAIRS OFFICER KRISTER ISAKSSON ON MARCH 9 TO REVIEW VISIT TO MADRID LAST WEEK OF MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL SVERKER ASTROM. ISAKSSON, WHO ACCOMPANIED ASTROM, HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR SPANISH GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF VISIT AND APPOINTMENTS BOTH WITHIN GOS AND WITH SEVERAL SPANISH POLITICAL FIGURES. HE SAID NEITHER ASTROM NOR SPANIARDS ATTEMPTED TO GLOSS OVER THE LAST FORTY YEAR PERIOD OF VERY COOL BILATERAL RELATIONS. ASTROM WAS LECTURED TO A BIT BY
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HIS MFA COUNTERPART (SOLERO?) WHO ASKED THAT THE SWEDES NOT MAKE A GESTURE OF "INVITING SPAIN BACK INTO EUROPE. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EUROPEAN DESPITE THE ATTEMPTS OF OTHERS TO ISOLATE US."

2. ASTROM MET WITH THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AND RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS ON THE

MINISTERIAL LEVEL AT SOME FUTURE POINT.
WHILE LATTER REACTED POSITIVELY, NO DATES
OR DETAILS WERE DISCUSSED ALTHOUGH SPAIN IMPORTS
APPROXIMATELY TWICE AS MUCH FROM SWEDEN AS IT EXPORTS, NO
PARTICULAR SPANISH CONCERN OVER TRADE WAS EXPRESSED. THE
SPANISH APPEAR TO BE QUITE CONTENT WITH THE
LEVEL OF SWEDISH TOURISM IN SPAIN.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE URGING OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY CHAIRMAN PALME, ASTROM HAD A LONG DISCUSSION
WITH FELIPE GONZALEZ OF THE PSOE, WHO, ISAKSSON SAID,
SEEMED SATISFIED THAT ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE BY
THE END OF JUNE. GONZALEZ DID HAVE SOME UNKIND
REFERENCES TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ALLOWING THE
"HISTORICAL" SOCIALISTS TO USE THE PSOE LABEL IN THE
CAMPAIGN, BUT IN GENERAL SEEMED ASSURED THAT THE
CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS NOW UNDERWAY IN SPAIN WOULD
NOT EASILY BE REVERSED. ASTROM ALSO SAW, AT PALME'S
SUGGESTION, RUIZ GIMENEZ, A LEADER WITHIN THE
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION.

4. COMMENT: THE IMPRESSION FROM ISAKSSON'S STATE-
MENTS IS THAT A COMPLETE NORMALIZATION OF SWEDISH-
SPANISH RELATIONS IS NOT THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN
EITHER FOREIGN OFFICE, BUT THAT NOW THAT THE ICE HAS
BEEN BROKEN AT THE ASTROM LEVEL, BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL
PROBABLY REFUSE TO ALLOW THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE ICY
PAST TO PREVENT A STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN THESE RELATIONS.
APPARENTLY THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN MADRID, KNUT
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BERNSTROM, HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN RECOMMENDING A
SWEDISH INITIATIVE TOWARD RAPPROCHEMENT. ACCORDING TO
ISAKSSON; BOTH THE NORWEGIAN AND DANISH AMBASSADORS IN
MADRID ARE MAKING SIMILAR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE
GOVERNMENTS, THUS FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS.
PERRY

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